

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An endoscopic retractor instrument has (a) a plurality of parts movably connected to one another, (b) componentry for mounting the parts in a collapsed or reduced-size configuration to a flexible and steerable insertion member of an endoscope, and (c) one or more actuation elements  
5 operatively connected to the parts for enabling a movement of the parts relative to one another so that the parts assume an enlarged or expanded configuration for spreading internal tissues of a patient. The movable parts of the retractor instrument may be inflatable balloon parts enabling insertion of the retractor in a substantially collapsed configuration and a later expansion at the site of interest.